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National Weather Summary
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January 2 - 8, 2005

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Highlights: Exceptionally stormy weather prevailed from **California eastward into the Ohio Valley**. Heavy snow blanketed much of the **West**, including valley locations in parts of the **Great Basin** and the **Northwest**, while torrential rain soaked the **Desert Southwest** and **California's coastal and valley regions**. The **Western** precipitation further improved high-elevation snow packs and helped to recharge drought-lowered reservoirs, but caused local flooding and mudslides. In addition, the continuing position of the primary storm track across **California** and the **Southwest** resulted in markedly lower precipitation totals and smaller mountain snow packs in the **Northwest**. Farther east, snow preceded an outbreak of cold weather on the **central Plains** as far south as **Kansas** and **Colorado**, helping to insulate winter wheat from sub-zero temperatures. Bitterly cold weather (weekly readings as much as 22 degrees F below normal and minimum temperatures as low as -40 degrees F) maintained livestock stress on the **northern Plains**, although snow depths of several inches provided most of the region's winter wheat with some protection. Elsewhere, weekly rainfall totaled 4 inches or more across the **southeastern Plains**, causing lowland flooding in **eastern Oklahoma** and adjacent areas. In the **Midwest**, heavy snow fell across much of the **western and northern Corn Belt**, causing travel disruptions and increasing stress on livestock. Meanwhile, very heavy rain (generally 4 to 6 inches) drenched the **Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys**, causing major flooding in an area already saturated by a pre-holiday snowstorm. **Lower Midwestern** flooding spread from lowland fields and creeks to larger tributaries, reaching main-stem rivers by week's end. Unusually warm weather (weekly readings up to 22 degrees F above normal) prevailed throughout the **South**, promoting the development of winter grains and cool-season pastures. Locally heavy showers **west of the Appalachians** contrasted with warm, dry weather in the **southern Atlantic States**.

Record warmth prevailed in the **Southeast** throughout the week, breaking more than three dozen daily-record highs. In **Alabama**, **Birmingham** opened the week with consecutive daily-record highs (74 degrees F both days) on January 2-3. Farther north, **Raleigh-Durham, NC**, notched daily-record highs (76, 73, and 71 degrees F) on January 4, 6, and 8. Elsewhere in the **South**, daily-record highs topped 80 degrees F on January 8 in locations such as **Jacksonville, FL** (82 degrees F), and Charleston, SC (81 degrees F). Following a Christmas Day low of 28 degrees F in **Brownsville, TX**, highs rebounded to reach or exceed 80 degrees F on 8 consecutive days from December 29 - January 5, including a daily-record high of 84 degrees F on January 2.

Meanwhile, stormy weather stretched from the **West into the Northeast**. In **Missouri**, **Springfield** netted daily-record rainfall totals on consecutive days (1.93 and 2.31 inches on January 4 and 5). Through week's end, **Springfield's** month-to-date precipitation reached 4.85 inches, the highest January total there since 6.77 inches fell in 1950. Elsewhere in **Missouri**, **St. Louis** collected 5.85 inches during the first 5 days of the month, breaking its January 1-5, 1950, record of 5.42 inches. **Indianapolis, IN**, collected a daily-record total of 2.70 inches on January 5, just shy of its modern-day January record of 2.82 inches established on January 3, 1950. By January 10, the **Ohio River** was above flood stage at most gauging points from near **Point Pleasant, WV**, downstream to the **Mississippi River confluence**, but falling rapidly farther north. At dawn on January 10, the **Ohio River** was 4.3 feet above flood stage at **Cincinnati, OH**, and 8.4 feet above flood stage at **Cairo, IL**, slowly rising at both locations.

Farther north, record-setting snows fell from parts of the **central Plains into the western Corn Belt**. January 4-6 snowfall totaled 17.0 inches near **Oelwein, IA**, and 14.1 inches in **Omaha, NE.** The only greater storm totals in **Omaha** were 18.9 inches on March 14-15, 1923, and 18.5 inches on February 11-12, 1965. Elsewhere, January 4-6 snowfall included 9.8 inches in **Chicago, IL**, and 6.9 inches in **Boston, MA.** In contrast, major accumulations continued to bypass the **upper Midwest**, where **Minneapolis, MN**, awaited its first 1-inch storm total of the season. Through January 8, **Minneapolis'** season-to-date snowfall stood at 2.8 inches, with the largest storm total being 0.8 inch on December 2. **Minneapolis'** previous latest date of the season's first 1-inch snowfall was January 9, 1945. Meanwhile, bitterly cold air remained entrenched for much of the week across the **northern Plains**, where daily-record lows on January 5 included -39 degrees F in **Grand Forks, ND**, -37 degrees F in **Williston, ND**, and -34 degrees F in **International Falls, MN.** Enough cold air slipped southward into **Colorado** to hold **Denver's** high to 6 degrees F on January 5. It was **Denver's** first maximum temperature below 10 degrees F since December 22, 1998.

Finally, two sustained periods of stormy weather affected the **West**. January 3 featured daily-record totals in locations such as **Las Vegas, NV** (0.81 inch), and **Death Valley, CA** (0.65 inch). **Las Vegas'** rain marked its wettest January day (previously, 0.74 inch on January 4, 1995) and capped its wettest 7-day period on record. The city's December 28 - January 3 total of 2.91 inches represented 65 percent of its normal annual rainfall. In **Arizona**, **Flagstaff** received 35.0 inches of snow from January 3-5 and 9.2 inches on January 7-8. Heavy snow spread as far north as **South Dakota's Black Hills**, where **Rapid City** (7.3 inches on January 4) reported its fourth-highest daily total on record during January. Heavy precipitation returned to the **West** toward week's end, when **Pocatello, ID** (8.3 inches on January 8), collected its highest daily snowfall on record in January (previously, 7.8 inches on January 17, 1950). Meanwhile in **California**, downtown **Los Angeles** measured 16.97 inches of rain from December 27 - January 10, breaking its 15-day record of 14.63 inches established from January 13-27, 1969. The 15-day total also surpassed **Los Angeles'** normal annual rainfall of 15.14 inches. During a 108-hour period from January 6-11, rainfall in the mountains near **Los Angeles** totaled 31.25 inches at **Opids Camp (Los Angeles County)**, 26.09 inches at **Nordhoff Ridge (Ventura County)**, and 24.45 inches at **San Marcos Pass (Santa Barbara County)**. According to the **California** Department of Water Resources, the water equivalent of the **Sierra Nevada** snow pack climbed to 24 inches (196 percent of normal) on January 10, up from 9 inches (exactly normal) on December 27. Meanwhile, another massive snow storm struck the eastern slopes of the **Sierra Nevada**, resulting in 32 inches at the National Weather Service office near **Reno, NV.** In the wake of major accumulations at the end of 2004, the latest storm represented **Reno's** most sustained period of wintry weather since 1916, when snowfall totaled 25.5 inches on January 17-18 and 14.7 inches on January 27-29.

In **Hawaii**, the week opened and ended with locally heavy showers. Early-week rains were heaviest across the **eastern half of Hawaii**, where **Maui's Hana Airport** netted 3.60 inches in a 12-hour period on January 2. Showers returned to **Hawaii's western and central islands** at week's end, when 24-hour totals on January 8-9 locally topped 2 inches on **Oahu**. **Honolulu, Oahu**, received 1.21 inches on January 9, boosting its month-to-date total to 2.86 inches (353 percent of normal). Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 4 degrees F below normal across the **western Hawaiian islands**, highlighted by a daily record-tying low of 59 degrees F on January 4 in **Lihue, Kauai**. Meanwhile, temperatures averaged nearly 30 degrees F above normal across parts of the **Alaskan mainland**. A record high for the month was established in **Valdez** on January 8, when the high reached 54 degrees F. **Kodiak** narrowly missed its monthly record (54 degrees F on January 31, 1963) with a high of 53 degrees F on January 7. Although mostly dry weather accompanied the warmth in much of **southern Alaska**, heavy snow fell across parts of the mainland. **McGrath** experienced its snowiest day on record (previously, 14.7 inches on February 2, 2000) on January 3, when 16.2 inches fell. By January 9, **McGrath's** snow depth stood at 42 inches. **Fairbanks** measured 10.1 inches of snow from January 4-6, its greatest 3-day accumulation since 15.9 inches fell on January 16-18, 2000. In contrast, month-to-date precipitation through January 9 totaled 0.02 inch (1 percent of normal) on **Annette Island** and 0.06 inch (2 percent) in **Kodiak**.

National Agricultural Summary
January 3 - 9, 2005

Highlights: Heavy rain fell in a band from the southern Great Plains to the middle Atlantic Coast States, causing widespread flooding, particularly in the Ohio River and Middle Mississippi River Valleys. To the northwest of this line of heavy rainfall, precipitation was mostly in the form of ice and snow, helping to establish snow cover across most of the Corn Belt. To the south, in the Delta and Southeast, temperatures averaged well above normal and rainfall was moderate, except in the southern Atlantic Coast States, where warm, dry conditions prevailed. Meanwhile, temperatures averaged well below normal in the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains, and northern and central Great Plains. However, snowfall early in the week helped to establish snow cover across much of this area, insulating winter wheat from the bitterly cold weather. Farther west, stormy weather in California brought heavy snowfall to higher elevations and moderate to heavy rainfall elsewhere, but snowstorms, flash-flooding and mudslides caused widespread travel disruptions. Precipitation was more moderate and more widely scattered in the Intermountain West and central and southern Rockies.

Warm, dry conditions in Florida promoted growth of vegetable crops, but citrus growers were concerned with the possibility of an early bloom, leaving trees vulnerable to a cold snap. In Georgia, above-normal temperatures encouraged growth in pastures and small grain fields, while mostly dry conditions favored final cotton harvest. In Texas, peanut harvest neared completion, but cotton and sorghum growers remained well behind their normal harvest pace, hampered by continued muddy conditions. The cotton harvest was virtually complete in Arizona, and vegetable and citrus growers harvested a variety of crops. In California, wet conditions slowed fieldwork to a near halt.

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